



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of HB 310 - Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities

To: Delegate Sandy Bartlett, Chair and the Members of the Judiciary Committee
From: Karen “Candy” Clark, Lead Advocate Criminal Justice Reform
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry-Maryland
Date: March 3, 2026

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland asks for your support on **HB 310 - Correctional Services – Restrictive Housing – Individuals With Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities** as it aligns with our values of Justice and Equity. We believe that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion. This is a compassionate bill which addresses those with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

People with developmental and intellectual disabilities are evaluated at their prison intake by a clinical professional who assesses how to manage their time safely behind the walls for their own—and others’—protection. Each person is evaluated on how they interact with others. Including their ability to:

- cause a serious physical injury or death,
- coerce others to violate rules,
- be involved in sexual misconduct.

After reviewing the individual’s history and current assessment the professional recommends the conditions that are needed to keep the correctional facility and its inhabitants safe.

Depending on the results of the evaluation, the recommendations could be that the individual may be placed in a locked room or cell for up to 22 hours out of a 24 hour period. Based on the professional’s analysis, guidelines would be established for each individual based on their needs and in accordance with international guidelines established by the United Nations which recommends that the individual should not be placed in RESTRICTIVE HOUSING FOR MORE THAN 15 CONSECUTIVE DAYS IN A 30 DAY PERIOD, which is the maximum safe period where bodily/mental harm from solitary confinement is deemed unlikely.

This is a developing process and helps ensure that people are treated as humanely as possible. This bill prevents the extreme excessively long and dangerous periods of solitary confinement that have occurred in the past.

UULM-MD appreciates the role that **HB 310** supports in helping to keep our correctional environment safe by establishing a specified length of restriction time for incarcerated Individuals. We ask for a favorable report.

Thank you,

Karen "Candy" Clark

Criminal Justice Reform Lead Advocate